

Considerations for the DRECP

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Landscape Level Approach

- Retain/enhance connectivity throughout the desert at species specific scales;
- Start with existing conservation investments;
- Incentivize previously mechanically disturbed lands, often private;
- Impacts are “single use” – implement “single use” conservation;
- Acquisition – early “low-hanging fruit”;

Issues 2B Covered

- Cover all T&Es, Candidates, BLM SS, State SC and other rare species, peripheral populations and locally rare species as id'd by experts;
- Conserve intact habitats
 - Cryptobiotic soils;
 - Invertebrate assemblages;
 - Native seed banks;
 - Hydrology/ground water resources;
 - Value benefits of existing C sequestration;

Include Special Habitats

Examples:

- Dune systems + Aeolian transport;
- Riparian areas & springs/seeps;
- Habitats that support T&E species;
- Rare soil types;
- UPAs & other rare plants communities;
- Raptor aeries/nests; IBA's;
- Movement/migration corridors;

Vegetation

- Provide vegetation map
- Implement appropriately timed surveys (spring, summer/fall)
- Cover CNPS List 1B's; 2, 3 & 4's
- Include pollination biology;
- UPA/ rare plant communities;
- Abandon scientifically unsupported mitigation strategies
 - project site “halos”
 - transplantation

Adaptive Management

- Include mechanism for adopting “new” science/data as they become available and integrating it into the Plan;
- specific, enforceable remedial action thresholds and action plans;
- Process for plan amendments to be transparent and publicly accessible;

Guarantee Success

- Quantitative baseline biological values based on pre-project conditions;
- MUST include measurable, quantitative success criteria;
- long-term monitoring requirements (*at least 10 years*);
- Pre-disturbance conservation implementation;

Conservation Opportunities

Examples:

- Retiring grazing of domestic/feral animals;
- Elevating conservation areas to reserve-level management;
- Closing routes & enforcing closures;
- Eliminating invasive species (plants and animals) – systematic way;
- Habitat enhancements;
- Creating connections;